Validity of nursing certificate

4375. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army Medical Corps issues about 2000 nursing certificates every year to its nursing assistants at the time of their retirement;

(b) whether these nursing certificates issued by the Army Medical Corps are not recognised by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Human Resource Development and these army personnel are not able to get jobs in the Government organisations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Defence Ministry to sort out the issue for the welfare of jobless retired nursing assistants of army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The average number of Nursing Assistants retiring from the Army Medical Corps every year is around 180. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed that the Nursing Certificate issued to the Nursing Assistants in the Army Medical Corps is not equivalent to the General Nursing training given in the civil side. Therefore, the Indian Nursing Council has not recognized the Nursing Assistants course.

Extortion racket run by Indian Army Officers

4376. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that senior officers of the Indian Army have been accused of posing as Naga rebels to run a kidnapping and extortion racket in the tea gardens of Assam;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the names of officers involved in the racket; and

(c) what action has been taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A First Information Report (FIR) has been lodged by the Manager of a Tea Estate of having received extortion demands. Lt. Colonel C.M. Shukla has been accused of making such demands. No case of